WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for multicasting changes made in a directory server, comprising the steps of:
establishing plural multicast groups for a respective plurality of change categories; and
submitting change information for multicast responsive to a change in the directory server, the change information being submitted to a selected one of the plural multicast groups, for multicast by the selected group, in correspondence to the category of the change.

2.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein the change information is submitted to the multicast groups utilizing a connectionless protocol.

3.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of change information categories comprise add, delete, modify or search changes.

4.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein changes made in the directory server are performed utilizing a Lightweight Directory Server Protocol.

5.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein change information is submitted for multicast by a plug-in that extends capabilities of the directory server.

6.   A method according to Claim 5, wherein the plug-in generates information packets based on changes made in the directory server, and submits the information packets to the multicast groups.

7.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein a client registers with at least one of the plural multicast groups in order to obtain the change information from each multicast group for which the client has registered.

8.   A method according to Claim 7, wherein the client registers with multicast groups established for a plurality of directory servers.

9.   A method for obtaining directory server change information, comprising:
registering as a member of at least one of a plurality of multicast groups, the plurality of multicast groups being established for a respective plurality of change categories; and
receiving a multicast transmission from one of the registered groups, the multicast transmission containing change information submitted to the multicast group in response to a change made in the directory server.

10.   A method according to Claim 9, wherein the member registers with multicast groups established for a plurality of directory servers.

11.   A method according to Claim 9, wherein the member registers with at least one

multicast group corresponding to add, delete, modify
or search change categories.

12. An apparatus for multicasting changes
made in a directory server wherein plural multicast
groups for a respective plurality of change
categories are established, comprising:

a processor for executing executable
process steps; and

a memory medium storing executable process
steps, wherein the executable process steps comprise
(a) generating change information responsive to a
change in the directory server, and (b) submitting
the change information to a selected one of the
plural multicast groups for multicast by the
selected group, in correspondence to the category of
the change.

13. An apparatus according to Claim 12,
wherein the change information is submitted to the
multicast groups utilizing a connectionless protocol

14. An apparatus according to Claim 12,
wherein the plurality of change information
categories comprise add, delete, modify or search
changes.

15. An apparatus according to Claim 12,
wherein changes made in the directory server are
performed utilizing a Lightweight Directory Server
Protocol.

16. An apparatus according to Claim 12,
wherein the executable process steps comprise a

plug-in for extending capabilities of the directory
server.

17. An apparatus according to Claim 12,
wherein a client registers with at least one of the
plural multicast groups in order to obtain the
change information from each multicast group for
which the client has registered.

18. An apparatus according to Claim 17,
wherein the client registers with multicast groups
established for a plurality of directory servers.

19. Computer-executable process steps for
multicasting changes made in a directory server
wherein plural multicast groups for a respective
plurality of change categories are established, the
computer-executable process steps comprising:
        generating change information responsive
to a change in the directory server; and
        submitting the change information to a
selected one of the plural multicast groups for
multicast by the selected group, in correspondence
to the category of the change.

20. Computer-executable process steps
according to Claim 19, wherein the change
information is submitted to the multicast groups
utilizing a connectionless protocol.

21. Computer-executable process steps
according to Claim 19, wherein the plurality of
change information categories comprise add, delete,
modify or search.

22. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 19, wherein changes made in the directory server are performed utilizing a Lightweight Directory Server Protocol.

23. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 19, wherein the process steps comprise a plug-in for extending capabilities of the directory server.

24. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 19, wherein a client registers with at least one of the plural multicast groups in order to obtain the change information from each multicast group for which the client has registered.

25. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 24, wherein the client registers with multicast groups established for a plurality of directory servers.

26. An apparatus for obtaining directory server change information, comprising:
a device for registering as a member of at least one of a plurality of multicast groups, the plurality of multicast groups being established for a respective plurality of change categories; and
a device for receiving a multicast transmission from one of the registered groups, the multicast transmission containing change information submitted to the multicast group in response to a change made in the directory server.

27. An apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein the member registers with multicast groups established for a plurality of directory servers.

28. An apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein the member registers with at least one multicast group corresponding to add, delete, modify or search change categories.

29. Computer executable process steps obtaining directory server change information, comprising:

registering as a member of at least one of a plurality of multicast groups, the plurality of multicast groups being established for a respective plurality of change categories; and

receiving a multicast transmission from one of the registered groups, the multicast transmission containing change information submitted to the multicast group in response to a change made in the directory server.

30. Computer executable process steps according to Claim 29, wherein the member registers with multicast groups established for a plurality of directory servers.

31. Computer executable process steps according to Claim 28, wherein the member registers with at least one multicast group corresponding to add, delete, modify or search change categories.